

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method of protecting normal, non-transformed cells from radiation damage, the method comprising:

contacting said normal cells with a dose of a hyperpolarizing agent effective to hyperpolarize the cell membrane and prevent radiation induced cell killing;

wherein said normal cells are protected from radiation damage.

2. (original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said contacting is performed prior to radiation exposure.

3. (canceled)

4. (original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said radiation is ionizing radiation.

5. (original) The method according to Claim 4, wherein said ionizing radiation results from nuclear fission or fusion.

6. (original) The method according to Claim 4, wherein said ionizing radiation is X-rays.

7. (original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said hyperpolarizing agent is a potassium channel opener.

8. (original) The method according to Claim 7, wherein said potassium channel is the KATP channel.

9 – 11 (canceled)